

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 13 have been canceled and claims 14 through 37 have been newly added by this Amendment. Thus, claims 14 through 37 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has noted minor informalities in the Abstract and disclosure, and by this Amendment, the Title, Abstract, and Specification have been revised and new claims 14-37 substituted for canceled claims 1-13. It is submitted that the entire application now meets all of the statutory requirements of 35 USC § 112 as to form.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Ishii for the reasons stated in section 1 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. By this Amendment, claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter and new claims 14-37 substituted therefor. It is submitted that claims 14-37 are patentable over Ishii for the following reasons:

The present claims now recite a system of networked printers in which at least one host computer is connected via a network to the plurality of networked printers and further recite that information and commands are transmitted therebetween to reduce the standby time for printing. All of the various recited features are handled by the at least one host computer and the plurality of networked printers via the network connected

therebetween.

On the other hand, Ishii purportedly reduces printer standby time utilizing a separate print server 30 connected to the network 50. As noted therein, computers 10-13 and printers 20-22 are connected to the network 50. When a computer wishes to print data on a printer, the print server 30 connected to the network 50 temporarily store is the print data from the computer, selects and determines an optimum printer out of the printers 20-22 according to printer information including operations states and print characteristic information obtained by inquiring the printer information of the printer device is connected to the network and sends the print data to the determined printer device to print the print data.

Thus, all of the various operations of Ishii to purportedly reduce printer standby time are performed within the separate print server 30. This requires additional equipment as compared to the present invention and further increases processing time since the various information and commands are not directly transmitted between the host computer and the printers but rather must be first processed by the print server 30 of Ishii.

In view of the above, it is submitted that new claims 14-37 are patentable over Ishii.

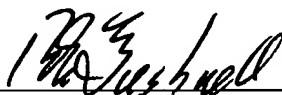
Additional references was cited by the Examiner not but not utilized in the rejection of the claims and accordingly, no further comment on these references is necessary.

Finally, Figure 4-2 has been amended by this Amendment. Specifically, "Valuate" in block S406 has been changed to "Evaluate". Entry of corrected formal Figure 4-2 which incorporates the aforesaid amendment is respectfully requested.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

A fee of \$72.00 incurred by the addition of four (4) total claims in excess of total 20 was previously paid by a check #45471 on 6 April 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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